

Remarks

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Final Office Action of July 20, 2009. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a three (3) month Petition for Extension of Time is filed concurrently herewith. Therefore, the time period for reply extends up to and includes January 20, 2010. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the present application, as well as the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 3, and 11 are amended above. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been entered. Claims 1-20 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

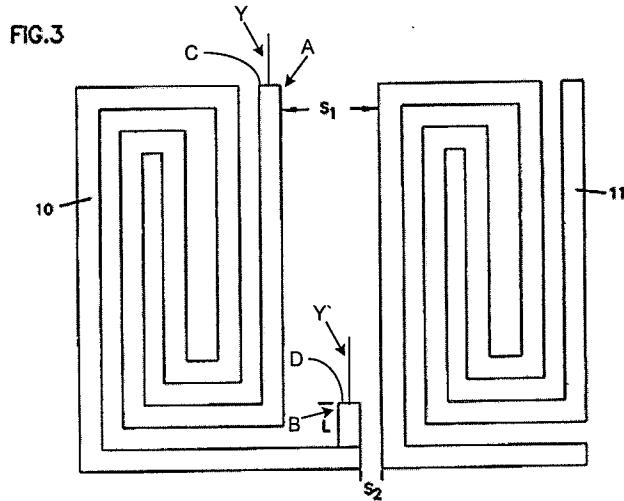
At page 2 of the Action, claims 1, 3, 6-8, and 11 are rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukamoto et al. (hereinafter “Tsukamoto”). Applicant traverses this rejection and does not concede the correctness of the rejection or characterizations of the cited art. However, in an effort to advance the present application to allowance, independent claims 1, 3, and 11 are amended. The rejection should be withdrawn because Tsukamoto fails to disclose each and every element of independent claims 1, 3, and 11.

A. Claims 1 and 6-8

Independent claim 1 is directed to a resonator apparatus for use in filters for an electrical signal. Claim 1 recites, in part, a first resonator device having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end defines a first segment aligned along a first axis and the second end defines a second segment aligned along a second axis, the first axis being non-collinear with the second axis.

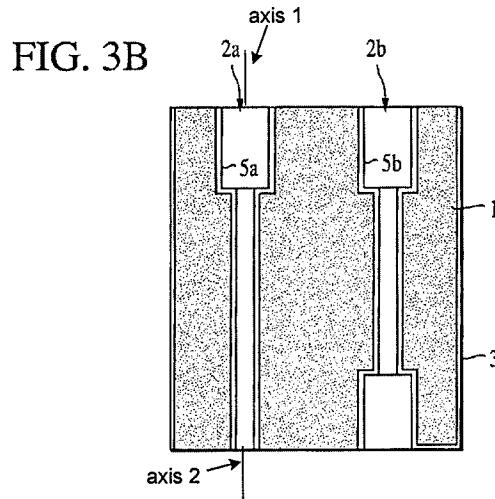
FIG. 3 (reprinted below) of the present application illustrates one non-limiting example embodiment consistent with the invention recited in claim 1. In this figure, the resonator 10 includes a first end A and a second end B. In the example embodiment, the first end A defines a

first segment C aligned along a first axis Y and the second end B defines a second segment D aligned along a second axis Y'. The first axis Y is non-collinear to the second axis Y'.



Present Application, FIG. 3 (annotations added: A, B, C, D, Y and Y', and the Y and Y' axes).

Tsukamoto fails to disclose the recited element of claim 1. Rather, Tsukamoto simply discloses a dielectric filter in which any given resonator is a straight trace such that an axis (e.g., axis 1) associated with a segment of one end of a resonator is aligned collinear to an axis (e.g., axis 2) associated a segment of another end of the same resonator. See e.g., Tsukamoto, FIGS. 3A, 3B (reprinted below), and 3C.



Tsukamoto, FIG. 3B (annotations added: axis 1 and axis 2, and the 1 and 2 axes).

In view of the foregoing, Tsukamoto fails to disclose each element of independent claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 6-8 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

B. Claim 3

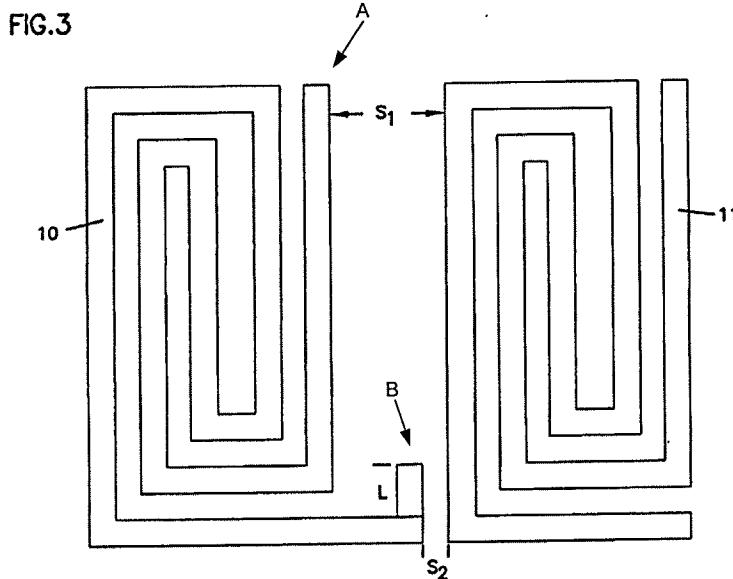
Independent claim 3 is directed to a resonator apparatus, for use in filters for an electrical signal. Claim 3 recites, in part, a first resonator device having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end includes a first segment aligned along a first axis and the second end includes a second segment aligned along a second axis, the first axis aligned generally parallel to and non-collinear with the second axis.

As discussed above, Tsukamoto fails to disclose such an element. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 3 are requested.

C. Claim 11

Independent claim 11 is directed to a filter for electrical signals. Claim 11 recites, in part, a plurality of resonators, at least one resonator having a first end and a second end connected by a conducting material therebetween, the second end being arranged to overlap at least a portion of the conducting material.

FIG. 3 (reprinted below) of the present application illustrates one non-limiting example embodiment consistent with the recited element of claim 11. In this figure, the resonator 10 of an HTS microstrip filter includes a first end A and a second end B. See also, Published Application, ¶[0022]. In the example embodiment, the first end B overlaps at least a portion of the trace of the resonator 10.



Application, FIG. 3 (annotations added: A and B).

Tsukamoto fails to disclose the recited element of claim 11. Rather, Tsukamoto simply discloses a dielectric filter in which any given resonator is a straight trace. See e.g., Tsukamoto, FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 3C.

In view of the foregoing, Tsukamoto fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 11. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 11 are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

At page 3 of the Action, claims 2 and 10 are rejected under §103(a) as being obvious given Tsukamoto et al. (as applied above) in view of Setsune et al. (hereinafter “Setsune”). Applicant traverses this rejection and does not concede the correctness of the rejection or any characterizations of the cited art.

Claims 2 and 10 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. As discussed above, Tsukamoto fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1. Setsune fails to provide the disclosure lacking in Tsukamoto. For example, Setsune fails to provide subject matter related to a first resonator device having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end defines a first segment aligned along a first axis and the second end defines a second segment

aligned along a second axis, the first axis being non-collinear with the second axis as recited in claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2 and 10 are therefore requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9 and 15 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicant also wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 5, 12-14, and 16-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

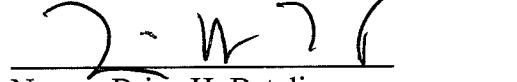
Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 20 January 2010


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